



ASP BATONS

Directive: 8 – 104

Date of Issue: July 2013 Amends/Cancels: Chapter VI Sec 3E

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Directive is to establish guidelines for the use of Armament Systems and Procedures (ASP) Baton.

II. POLICY

This department has issued ASP Batons to provide Officers with additional use of force options for gaining compliance of resistant or aggressive individuals in arrest and other enforcement situations. It is the policy of this department that personnel may use the ASP Baton when warranted, but only in accordance with the guidelines and procedures set forth here and in this department's Use of Force Directive.

III. PROCEDURES

A. ASP Baton

1. The ASP is an expandable baton that will be carried on the Officer's duty belt at all times.
2. Police Officers will only carry an issued or authorized ASP.
3. The baton may be used to protect the Officer or other persons from injury or to gain compliance in an arrest situation when the use of O.C. spray is not an option and the use of deadly force is not justified.
4. The ASP baton will only be deployed in those situations that require the use of force and the Officer reasonably believes that an arrest is imminent.
5. The ASP baton may be used to strike the suspect in designated target areas of the body, such as the torso, legs and arms. Strikes to the knee joint should be avoided as they can result in permanent damage to bones, tendons and muscles. Intentional strikes to the head, neck, spine, kidney area and groin will be avoided whenever possible. Courts have held that a blow to the head is tantamount to using deadly force. The baton may also be used to block strikes by the suspect directed at the Police Officer or another person.
6. Whenever feasible and without compromising Officer safety, Police Officers will warn the suspect prior to striking with the ASP.

7. Officers may remove the ASP from its holder whenever it can be reasonably anticipated that it may be needed to achieve a lawful purpose. The ASP will never be removed and/or displayed solely for the purposes of intimidation.
8. Whenever a suspect is struck with an ASP, the Officer will request medical attention for the suspect. If there is any evidence of injury or the suspect requests medical attention, the suspect will be transported to the hospital prior to booking. The Officer that utilized the force must also complete a Use of Force report.